



US Army Corps®
of Engineers
Portland District

PUBLIC NOTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

CASPIAN TERN INTERIM MANAGEMENT PLAN FY 2003-2004
& PILE DIKE MAINTENANCE
CLATSOP COUNTY, OREGON

CENWP-PM-E-02-11
Issue Date: December 18, 2002
Expiration Date: January 17, 2003

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District, proposes interim management activities for the Columbia River estuary colony of Caspian terns for fiscal years 2003-2004. This action is in response to a court settlement from the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington dated April 2, 2002. The Corps' work will consist of habitat modification on the eastern end of East Sand Island, located near river mile 5 of the Columbia River, Oregon. The proposed action resulted from coordination with the Caspian Tern Working Group, an inter-agency group consisting of participants from the Corps, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bonneville Power Administration, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), and research staff from CRITFC, Oregon State University, and Real Time Research. As part of the court settlement, the US Fish and Wildlife Service is to prepare a long-term management plan and Environmental Impact Statement for management of Caspian terns in the Columbia River estuary, with a Record of Decision by February 28, 2005.

The FY 2003-2004 Management Plan follows the plan implemented in 2001 as modified by the 2002 court settlement. The Corps will maintain at least 6 acres of suitable Caspian tern nesting habitat on East Sand Island. Active and passive harassment of terns on Rice, Miller Sands Spit and Pillar Rock Islands will occur as necessary until egg-laying begins. No lethal take of Caspian terns or harassment after egg-laying is proposed. Predators will be controlled as necessary. Previously installed pile dike bird excluders will be maintained. Monitoring will be conducted to document tern distribution, dispersal, reproductive success and diet composition for future management decisions. Most of the Columbia River Estuary tern colony, about 9,900 breeding pairs in 2002, has relocated to East Sand Island. Habitat maintenance is necessary to prevent their return to Rice Island.

Environmental Documents: A draft Environmental Assessment addressing the impacts associated with the activity has been prepared and is available for review at <http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/PM/E>.

State Water Quality Certification: State Water Quality Certification, pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, is not required as no fill in waters of the United States is proposed.

Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972: Consistency determinations, prepared for the 1999 pilot project and the FY 2000, 2001 and 2002 Management Plans, were concurred with by the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development. The Federal actions for the FY 2003-2004 Management Plan are similar to those described for previous years.

Additional Information and Comments: Questions or comments regarding the environmental document should be directed to Bob Willis, telephone (503) 808-4760 (Robert.E.Willis@usace.army.mil), or Lynne Hamilton, 808-4772 (lynne.d.hamilton@usace.army.mil), or at the address below. Comments on this notice must be mailed by the closing date to:

District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineer District, Portland
Attn: CENWP-PM-E
P.O. Box 2946
Portland, Oregon 97208-2946

In your response, please refer to the above public notice number, title and date. If a paper copy of the draft environmental assessment is required, please request one by calling (503) 808-4761, or by contacting the above named persons.